

Chapter 4. Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

As of July 1, 2002 there were 13,624 people living with HIV/AIDS and reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (HASP) in Massachusetts. The following profile of people living with HIV/AIDS can be used as an indicator of individuals who are utilizing and/or eligible for HIV services as well as the pool of individuals who may be at risk of transmitting HIV infection to others. The data that follow can be used to inform HIV care, treatment and support service planning as well as the planning of positive prevention programs. Positive prevention programs are designed to support HIV positive people in their efforts to live longer and healthier lives as well as to reduce behaviors that may put themselves and others at risk for further HIV transmission. When using these data, one must keep in mind that they represent only those individuals who tested positive for HIV, have sought medical care *and* have been reported to the HASP. Individuals who are unaware of their status, not in care, or not reported are not reflected in these figures. Using one technique described by Fleming et al for estimating HIV prevalence yields a count of 7,018 Massachusetts residents who are HIV positive but unaware of their status or not in care. Therefore, the estimated total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in MA, including people known to the system as well as those yet to be identified, could be in the range of 20,000-21,000 people. (Reference: Fleming PL, Byers RH, Sweeney PA, Daniels D, Karon JM, Janssen RS. HIV prevalence in the United States, 2000. Abstract 11. 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Seattle, Washington, February 24-28, 2002)

The data contained in this chapter are presented for people living with HIV infection (non-AIDS), people living with AIDS, and the combined total of people living with HIV/AIDS. Separating the data for people living with HIV infection and people living with AIDS allows for a comparison across these two groups. Assuming people living with HIV infection are more recently infected than people who have developed AIDS, this comparison can be a proximate indicator of differences between recent infection and less recent infection.

Section 1. Profile of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Table 4.1 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Health Service Region¹: MA						
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>						
	HIV		AIDS		TOTAL HIV + AIDS	
Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	4,141	70%	5,646	74%	9,787	72%
Female	1,812	30%	2,025	26%	3,837	28%
Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	2,927	49%	3,595	47%	6,522	48%
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,454	24%	2,109	27%	3,563	26%
Hispanic	1,448	24%	1,864	24%	3,312	24%
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	1%	80	1%	137	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	0.2%	10	0.1%	21	0.2%
Not Specified	56	1%	13	0.2%	69	1%
Health Service Region:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boston HSR	1,882	32%	2,517	33%	4,399	32%
Metro West HSR	722	12%	925	12%	1,647	12%
Central HSR	495	8%	692	9%	1,187	9%
Northeast HSR	791	13%	1,094	14%	1,885	14%
Southeast HSR	835	14%	1,079	14%	1,914	14%
Western HSR	721	12%	854	11%	1,575	12%
Unknown	11	0.2%	0	0%	11	0.1%
Prison ²	496	8%	510	7%	1,006	7%
TOTAL	5,953		7,671		13,624	
¹ Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence); ² HSRs are regions defined geographically to facilitate targeted health service planning. While prisons are not an HSR, the prison population is presented separately in this analysis because of its unique service planning needs. Prisons include persons who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while in a correctional facility; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Of the 13,624 people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts, 5,953 (44%) are living with HIV infection (non-AIDS) and 7,671 (56%) have been diagnosed with AIDS.
- The majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are male (72%).
- The percentage of females living with HIV (30%) is higher than the percentage of females with AIDS (26%).
- Over 50% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are people of color: 26% Black (non-Hispanic), 24% Hispanic, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and less than 1%

American Indian/Alaska Native. In sharp contrast, Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanics represent only 12% of the total Massachusetts population.

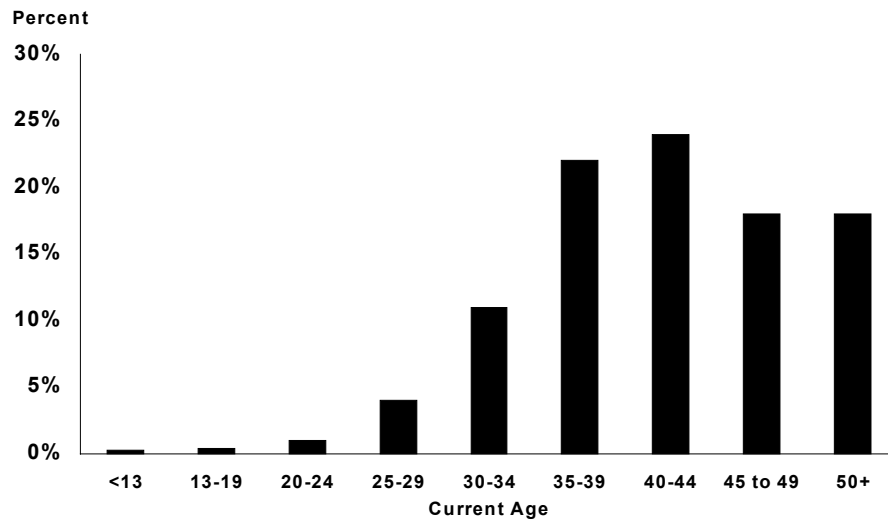
Table 4.2 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Exposure Mode: MA						
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>						
Exposure Mode ¹ :	HIV		AIDS		TOTAL HIV + AIDS	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male-to-male sex	2,059	35%	2,300	30%	4,359	32%
Injection Drug Use	1,781	30%	2,671	35%	4,452	33%
Male-to-male sex and Injection Drug Use	182	3%	253	3%	435	3%
Heterosexual Sex	771	13%	1,008	13%	1,779	13%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ an Injection Drug User	371	6%	413	5%	784	6%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ a person w/ HIV or AIDS	378	6%	566	7%	944	7%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/Bisexual male	15	0.3%	15	0.2%	30	0.2%
◦ Other Heterosexual Sex	7	0.1%	14	0.2%	21	0.2%
Presumed Heterosexual ¹	843	14%	932	12%	1,775	13%
Blood / Blood products	22	0.4%	110	1%	132	1%
Pediatric	-- ²	-- ²	92	1%	92	1%
Occupational	1	0.02%	0	0%	1	0%
No Identified Risk	294	5%	305	4%	599	4%
Total	5,953		7,671		13,624	
¹ See the Glossary for an explanation of Exposure Mode categories Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Injection drug use and male-to-male sex are the leading reported risks for HIV infection among people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 33% and 32% of all exposures respectively.
- Male-to-male sex is attributed to the largest proportion (35%) of HIV exposures among people living with HIV infection who have not been diagnosed with AIDS, whereas injection drug use accounts for the largest proportion of (35%) of HIV exposures among people living with AIDS.

Note: the category of presumed heterosexual is created to re-assign people who are reported with no identified risk but who are known to have denied all other risks except the possibility of heterosexual sex with a partner of unknown HIV status or risk. As such, it is still not clear what the exposure risk is for people in this category and any comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4.3 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Current Age: MA		
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>		
Current Age, in Years:	N	%
Under 13 ¹	45	0.3%
13 to 19	55	0.4%
20 to 24	193	1%
25 to 29	569	4%
30 to 34	1,563	11%
35 to 39	3,050	22%
40 to 44	3,266	24%
45 to 49	2,491	18%
50+	2,392	18%
Total	13,624	
<small>1 Data on Pediatric cases of HIV are not included here, for more information contact the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease Project, MDPH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)</small>		

- Eighty-two percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are currently 35 years old and older.
- Less than two percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are currently adolescents (13 – 24 years old).
- Eighteen percent of people living with HIV/AIDS are 50 years of age and older. (See Figure 4.1)

Figure 4.1 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Current Age: MA

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/02

Table 4.4 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: MA*Data as of 7/1/02*

Race/Ethnicity:	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	5,206	53%	1,316	34%
Black (non-Hispanic)	2,154	22%	1,409	37%
Hispanic	2,257	23%	1,055	27%
Asian/Pacific Islander	110	1%	27	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	0.1%	10	0.3%
Unknown	49	1%	20	1%
Total	9,787		3,837	

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- Among males living with HIV/AIDS, 53% are White (non-Hispanic), 22% are Black (non-Hispanic) and 23% are Hispanic. (See Figure 4.2)
- Among females living with HIV/AIDS, 34% are White (non-Hispanic) 37% are Black (non-Hispanic) and 27% are Hispanic. (See Figure 4.2)
- Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives make up less than 1% of the people living with HIV/AIDS for both males and females.

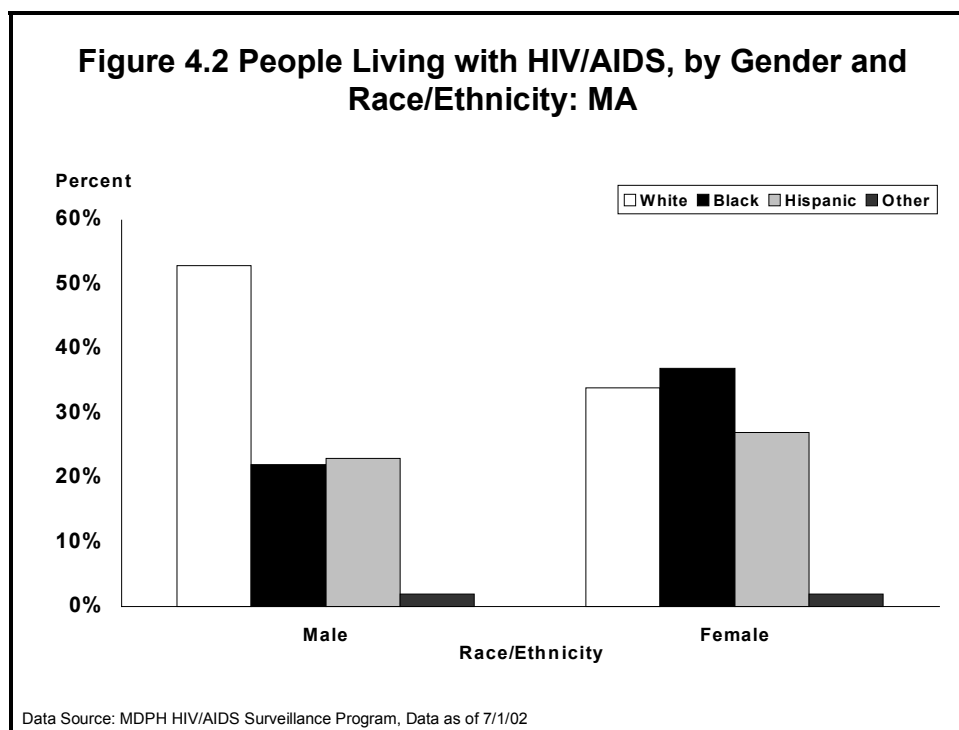


Table 4.5 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Gender and Exposure Mode: MA				
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>				
	Male		Female	
Exposure Mode	N	%	N	%
Male-to-male sex	4,359	45%	--	--
Injection drug use	3,013	31%	1,439	38%
Male-to-male sex & Injection drug use	435	4%	--	--
Heterosexual sex	523	5%	1,256	33%
Presumed heterosexual sex	888	9%	887	23%
Other	130	1%	95	2%
No identified risk	439	4%	160	4%
Total	9,787		3,837	

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- For males, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV infection among people living with HIV/AIDS (45%), followed by injection drug use (31%). (See Figure 4.3)
- For females, injection drug use accounts for the most frequent exposure to HIV (38%); this is followed by heterosexual sex and presumed heterosexual sex. (See Figure 4.3)

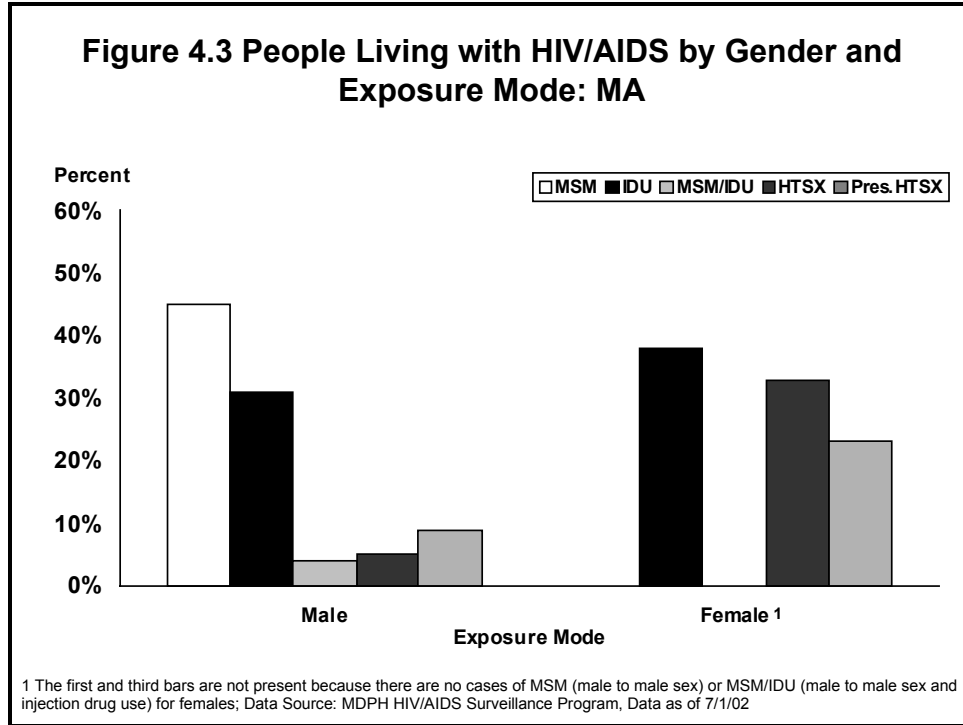


Table 4.6 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode: MA										
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>										
	White NH		Black NH		Hispanic		API		AI/AN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
MSM	3,326	51%	482	14%	465	14%	57	42%	5	24%
IDU	1,745	27%	1,071	30%	1,604	48%	7	5%	10	48%
MSM/IDU	269	4%	89	2%	74	2%	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹
HTSX	467	7%	629	18%	653	20%	17	12%	— ¹	— ¹
P. HTSX	391	6%	969	27%	362	11%	38	28%	— ¹	— ¹
Other	111	2%	68	2%	43	1%	— ¹	— ¹	0	0%
NIR	213	3%	255	7%	111	3%	14	10%	0	0%
Total	6,522		3,563		3,312		137		21	

¹ Percentages calculated from a numerator of less than 5 and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented
 NH = Non-Hispanic, API = Asian/Pacific Islander, AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native, MSM = Male-to-male sex, IDU = Injection Drug Use, HTSX = Heterosexual Sex, P. HTSX = Presumed Heterosexual Sex, NIR = No Identified Risk
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- Among Whites living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV, accounting for over half (51%) of exposures.
- Injection drug use (30%) and presumed heterosexual sex (27%) are the leading risks for HIV infection among Blacks living with HIV/AIDS.

- Among Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is injection drug use, which accounts for nearly half (48%) of exposures.
- Among Asian Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is male-to-male sex accounting for 42% of exposures.

Table 4.7 Males Living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode: MA										
<i>Data as of 7/1/02</i>										
	White NH		Black NH		Hispanic		API		AI/AN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
MSM	3,326	64%	482	22%	465	21%	57	52%	5	45%
IDU	1,023	20%	731	34%	1,241	55%	6	5%	4	— ¹
MSM/IDU	269	5%	89	4%	74	3%	1	1%	2	— ¹
HTSX	126	2%	207	10%	180	8%	5	4%	0	0%
P. HTSX	218	4%	440	20%	194	9%	30	27%	0	0%
Other	77	1%	28	1%	24	1%	1	1%	0	0%
NIR	167	3%	177	8%	79	3%	10	9%	0	0%
Total	5,206		2,154		2,257		110		11	

1 Percentages calculated from a numerator of less than 5 and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented
 NH = Non-Hispanic, API = Asian/Pacific Islander, AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native, MSM = Male-to-male sex, IDU = Injection Drug Use, HTSX = Heterosexual Sex, P. HTSX = Presumed Heterosexual Sex, NIR = No Identified Risk
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- The distribution of males living with HIV/AIDS across exposure mode varies by race/ethnicity. (See Figure 4.4)
 - Among White males, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV infection, attributed to 64% of exposures.
 - Among Black males, exposure mode is more evenly distributed with injection drug use accounting for 34% of exposures, male-to-male sex 22%, and presumed heterosexual sex 20%.
 - Among Hispanic males, injection drug use is the leading reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 55% of exposures.

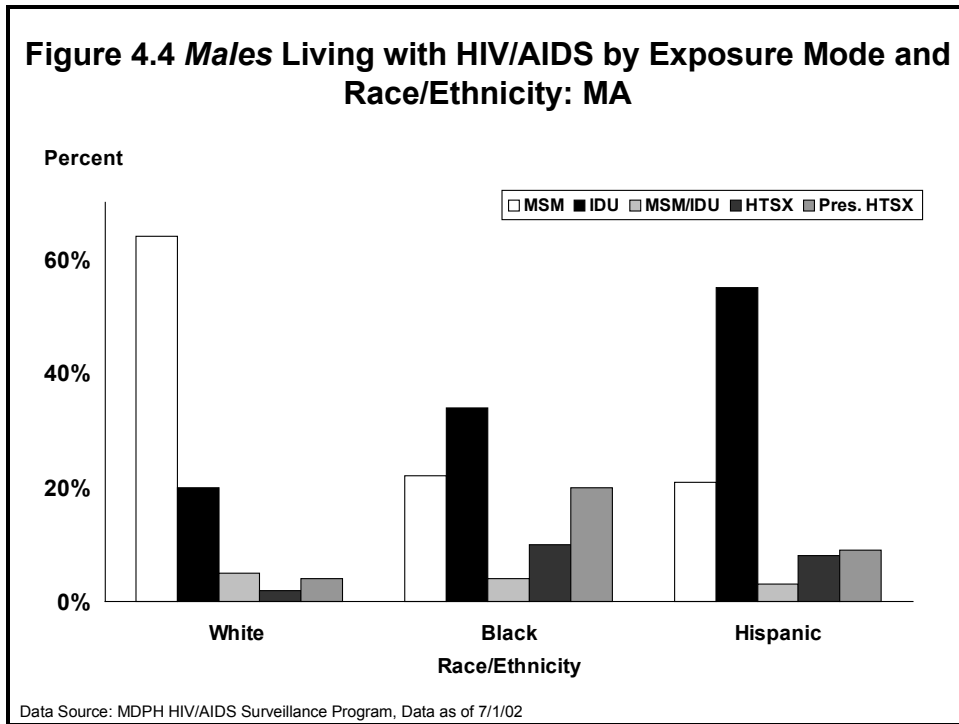


Table 4.8 Females Living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode: MA

Data as of 7/1/02

	White NH		Black NH		Hispanic		API		AI/AN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
IDU	722	55%	340	24%	363	34%	1	— ¹	6	60%
HTSX	341	26%	422	30%	473	45%	12	44%	3	— ¹
P. HTSX	173	13%	529	37%	168	16%	8	30%	1	— ¹
Other	34	3%	40	3%	19	2%	2	— ¹	0	0%
NIR	46	3%	78	5%	32	3%	4	— ¹	0	0%
Total	1,316		1,409		1,055		27		10	

¹ Percentages calculated from a numerator of less than 5 and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented

NH = Non-Hispanic, API = Asian/Pacific Islander, AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native, IDU = Injection Drug Use, HTSX = Heterosexual Sex, P. HTSX = Presumed Heterosexual Sex, NIR = No Identified Risk

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- The distribution of females living with HIV/AIDS across exposure mode varies by race/ethnicity. (See Figure 4.5)
- While the predominant mode of exposure among White females living with HIV/AIDS is injection drug use (55%), the predominant mode of exposure among Black females is presumed heterosexual sex (37%) and among Hispanic females is heterosexual sex (45%).

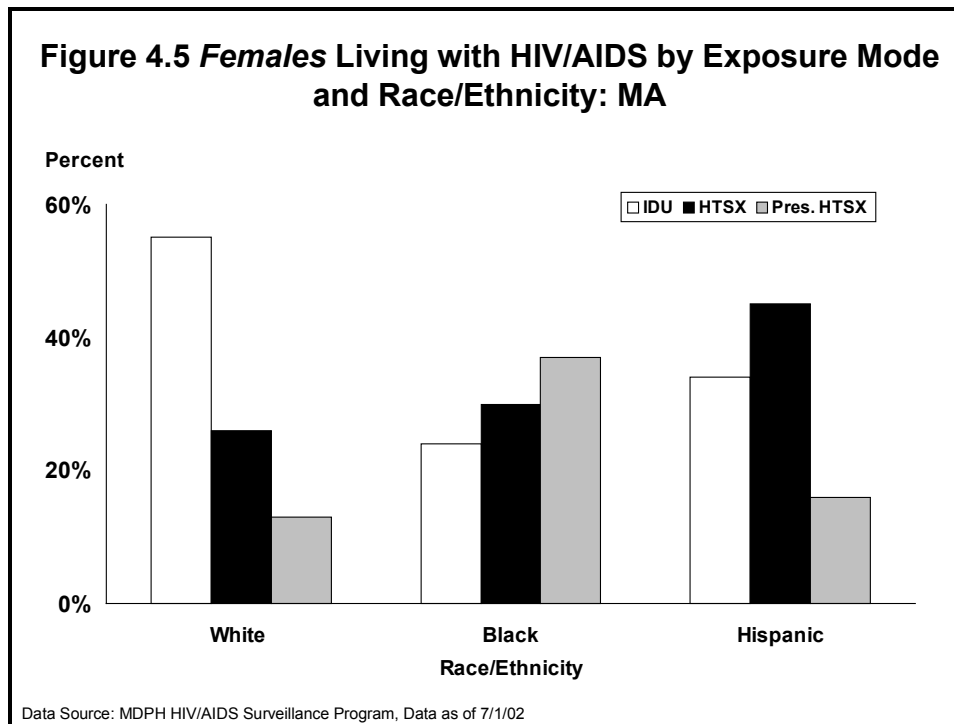


Table 4.9 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Health Service Region (HSR)¹ and Gender: MA

Data as of 7/1/02

Health Service Region	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Boston HSR	3,370	77%	1,029	23%	4,399
Metro West HSR	1,196	73%	451	27%	1,647
Central HSR	741	62%	446	38%	1,187
Northeast HSR	1,294	69%	591	31%	1,885
Southeast HSR	1,339	70%	575	30%	1,914
Western HSR	986	63%	589	37%	1,575
Prison ²	855	85%	151	15%	1,006

¹ Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence)

² HSRs are regions defined geographically to facilitate targeted health service planning. While prisons are not an HSR, the prison population is presented separately in this analysis because of its unique service planning needs. Prisons include persons who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while in a correctional facility

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- The distribution of people living with HIV/AIDS by gender varies by Health Service Region (HSR).
- The Central and Western HSRs have the greatest proportion of females living with HIV/AIDS, at 38% and 37%, respectively. (See Figure 4.6)

- The Boston and Metro West HSRs have the greatest proportion of males living with HIV at 77% and 73%, respectively. (See Figure 4.6)

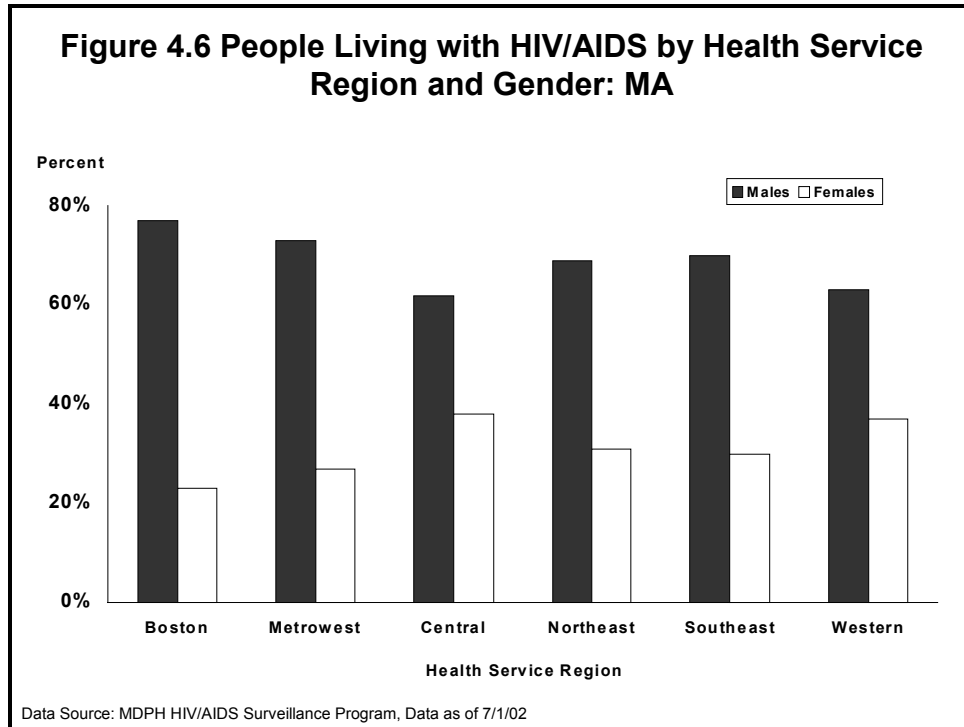


Table 4.10 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Health Service Region (HSR)¹ and Race/Ethnicity: MA
Data as of 7/1/02

HSR	White NH	Black NH	Hispanic	API	AI/AN	Total ²
Boston HSR	43%	38%	17%	1%	0.1%	4,399
Metro West HSR	59%	29%	10%	2%	0.0%	1,647
Central HSR	48%	16%	35%	1%	0.3%	1,187
Northeast HSR	53%	16%	28%	2%	0.2%	1,885
Southeast HSR	68%	18%	13%	0.3%	0.2%	1,914
Western HSR	31%	20%	49%	0.1%	0.1%	1,575
Prison ³	30%	25%	44%	0.1%	0.5%	1,006

1 Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence); 2 PLWH/A of unknown race/ethnicity are included in totals; 3 HSRs are regions defined geographically to facilitate targeted health service planning. While prisons are not an HSR, the prison population is presented separately in this analysis because of its unique service planning needs. Prisons include persons who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while in a correctional facility
API = Asian/Pacific Islander, AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native, NH= Non-Hispanic; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

- The distribution of people living with HIV/AIDS by race/ethnicity varies by Health Service Region (HSR). (See Figure 4.7)
- Whites account for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS across race/ethnicity in all HSRs except the Western HSR, where Hispanics are the largest group.
- The Boston HSR has the highest proportion (38%) of Black people among those living with HIV/AIDS followed by the Metro West HSR (29%).
- The Western HSR has the highest proportion (49%) of Hispanic people among those living with HIV/AIDS followed by the Central HSR (35%).

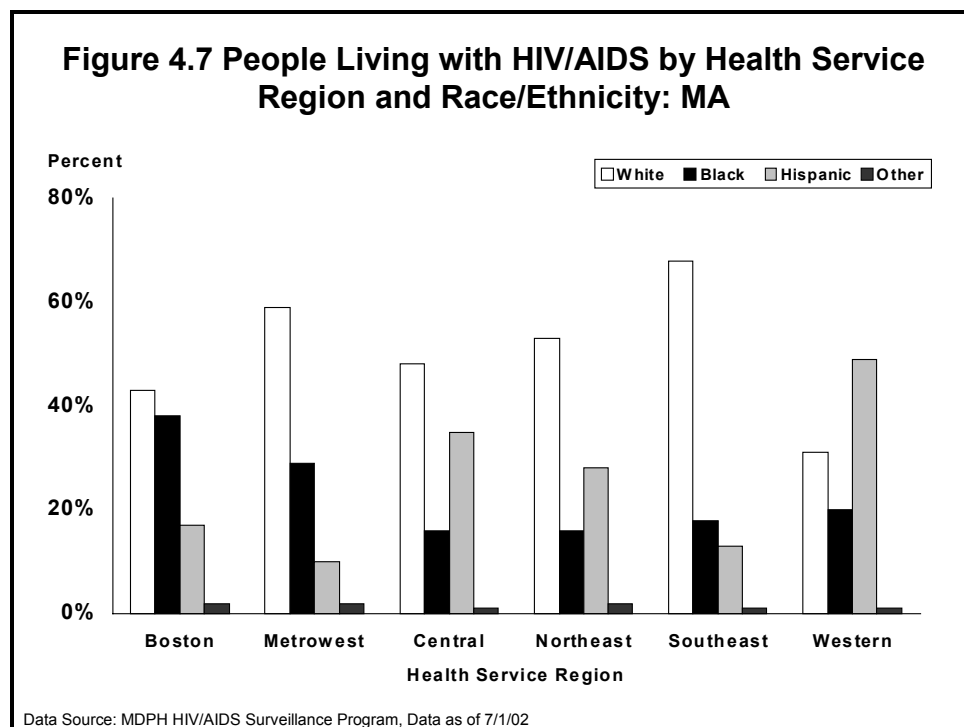


Table 4.11 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Health Service Region¹ and Exposure Mode²: MA*Data as of 7/1/02*

HSR	MSM	IDU	MSM/ IDU	HTSX	Pres. HTSX	Other	NIR	Total
Boston HSR	44%	22%	3%	11%	14%	2%	4%	4,399
Metro West HSR	39%	21%	3%	10%	18%	3%	6%	1,647
Central HSR	19%	43%	3%	19%	12%	2%	2%	1,187
Northeast HSR	29%	29%	3%	15%	16%	2%	6%	1,885
Southeast HSR	34%	33%	3%	14%	9%	2%	4%	1,914
Western HSR	20%	42%	3%	18%	12%	1%	4%	1,575
Prison ³	5%	76%	5%	6%	6%	0.1%	3%	1,006

1 Reflects the health service region of a person's residence at the time of report (not necessarily current residence); 2 See the Glossary for an explanation of Exposure Mode categories. MSM = male-to-male sex; IDU = injection drug use; MSM/IDU = male-to-male sex and injection drug use; HTSX = heterosexual sex; Pres. HTSX = presumed heterosexual; NIR = No Identified Risk; 3 HSRs are regions defined geographically to facilitate targeted health service planning. While prisons are not an HSR, the prison population is presented separately in this analysis because of its unique service planning needs. Prisons include persons who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS while in a correctional facility; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- Male-to-male sex is the mode of exposure reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Boston (44%) and Metro West (39%) HSRs. (See Figure 4.8)
- Injection drug use is the mode of exposure reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Central (43%) and Western (42%) HSRs.
- In the Northeast Region, male-to-male sex and injection drug use account for the same proportion (29%) of exposures among PLWH/A. Similarly, in the Southeast Region, among PLWH/A, 34% of exposures are attributed to male-to-male sex and 33% to injection drug use.

